

# SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

105th Congress  
1st Session

Vote No. 118

June 25, 1997, 11:12 am  
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## BALANCED BUDGET ACT/Medicaid for Disabled Immigrant Children

**SUBJECT:** Balanced Budget Act of 1997 . . . S. 947. Dodd motion to waive section 310 of the Budget Act for the consideration of the Lautenberg (for Dodd/Conrad) amendment No. 479.

### ACTION: MOTION REJECTED, 49-51

**SYNOPSIS:** As reported, S. 947, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, will make net mandatory spending reductions to achieve the savings necessary to balance the budget by 2002 and to provide the American people with tax relief. This bill is the first reconciliation bill that is required by H.Con. Res. 84, the Budget Resolution for fiscal year (FY) 1998 (see vote No. 92). The second bill will provide tax relief (see vote No. 160).

**The Lautenberg (for Dodd/Conrad amendment)** would retain Medicaid eligibility for the 30,000 disabled children of legal immigrants who currently receive Medicaid benefits based on their receipt of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) welfare benefits (the welfare reform bill denied those benefits and other welfare benefits to legal immigrants because a condition of immigration is that one will not become a public charge). As reported, this bill will already provide \$16 billion to the States to insure currently uninsured children, with the intention that part of that \$16 billion be used to pay the \$100 million, 5-year cost of insuring those 30,000 disabled children of legal immigrants. (Also, when this amendment had been offered, an agreement had been reached to spend another \$8 billion on insuring children, with the funding to come from an increase in tobacco taxes; see vote No. 135.)

The amendment was offered after all debate time had expired. However, by unanimous consent some debate was permitted. Senator Domenici raised the point of order that the Dodd amendment violated section 310 of the Budget Act. Senator Dodd then moved to waive that section for the consideration of the amendment. Generally, those favoring the motion to waive favored the amendment; those opposing the motion to waive opposed the amendment.

NOTE: A three-fifths majority (60) vote is required to waive the Budget Act. Following the failure of the motion to waive, the point of order was upheld and the amendment thus fell.

**Those favoring** the motion to waive contended:

(See other side)

YEAS (49)			NAYS (51)			NOT VOTING (0)	
Republicans (5 or 9%)	Democrats (44 or 98%)		Republicans (50 or 91%)	Democrats (1 or 2%)		Republicans (0)	Democrats (0)
Campbell	Akaka	Johnson	Abraham	Hutchinson	Byrd		
Chafee	Baucus	Kennedy	Allard	Hutchison			
D'Amato	Biden	Kerrey	Ashcroft	Inhofe			
Jeffords	Bingaman	Kerry	Bennett	Kempthorne			
Specter	Boxer	Kohl	Bond	Kyl			
	Breaux	Landrieu	Brownback	Lott			
	Bryan	Lautenberg	Burns	Lugar			
	Bumpers	Leahy	Coats	Mack			
	Cleland	Levin	Cochran	McCain			
	Conrad	Lieberman	Collins	McConnell			
	Daschle	Mikulski	Coverdell	Murkowski			
	Dodd	Moseley-Braun	Craig	Nickles			
	Dorgan	Moynihan	DeWine	Roberts			
	Durbin	Murray	Domenici	Roth			
	Feingold	Reed	Enzi	Santorum			
	Feinstein	Reid	Faircloth	Sessions			
	Ford	Robb	Frist	Shelby			
	Glenn	Rockefeller	Gorton	Smith, Bob			
	Graham	Sarbanes	Gramm	Smith, Gordon			
	Harkin	Torricelli	Grams	Snowe			
	Hollings	Wellstone	Grassley	Stevens			
	Inouye	Wyden	Gregg	Thomas			
			Hagel	Thompson			
			Hatch	Thurmond			
			Helms	Warner			

#### EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

#### SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

According to the Social Security Administration, 135,000 low-income children of legal immigrants will lose their SSI benefits due to the passage of the welfare reform bill last year. Because SSI eligibility is linked to Medicaid eligibility, 30,000 of these children who do not qualify for Medicaid for any reason other than that they receive SSI payments will lose their Medicaid coverage. We do not want any children in America to be without health insurance. We know our colleagues believe that the budget agreement requires that part of the \$16 billion already in this bill to insure children be used to cover these 30,000 kids, but our understanding is that the agreement calls for even more money on top of the \$16 billion. We are afraid that in the end the interpretation may be made that legal aliens will not be eligible for any of the \$16 billion. All we are asking for is another \$100 million over 5 years. To be on the safe side, we urge our colleagues to waive the Budget Act so we can provide that extra money.

**Those opposing** the motion to waive contended:

This bill will provide \$16 billion to insure children who are currently without health insurance, and of that amount \$100 million will be used to provide health insurance to those disabled children of legal immigrants who are soon going to lose their Medicaid benefits. No one disputes that \$100 million is all that will be needed to cover those disabled children, yet our colleagues have now offered an amendment asking for another \$100 million. They tell us that they want to add the money because they are not certain that part of the \$16 billion is for those kids, despite our assurances. We, though, are certain that the committee of jurisdiction fully intended for coverage to be provided. We know that if we were to agree to their amendment twice as much funding as needed would be given to insure the disabled children of legal immigrants. We will not vote to waive the Budget Act for such a wasteful amendment.